

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 03166 231654Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5444

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOM

USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY REFORM STAGE ENDS WITH END OF MIXED COMMISSION

REF: MADRID 2822

1. THE MIXED COMMISSION OF THE CABINET AND NATIONAL COUNCIL
HELD ITS 9TH MEETING APR 22 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRIME
MINISTER ARIAS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING IT WAS
ANNOUNCED THAT THE COMMISSION HAD FINISHED THE PAPER ON REFORM
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SPECULA-
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PAGE 02 MADRID 03166 231654Z

TION IN THE PRESS THAT THE FUTURE LEGISLATURE WILL CONTAIN A

LOWER HOUSE ELECTED BY FREE DIRECT UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE WITH A MINIMUM OF TWO MEMBERS FOR EACH PROVINCE PLUS A MEMBER FOR EACH 100,000 OR 175,000 INHABITANTS, FOR A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 300 REPRESENTATIVES. THE SENATE, THE CORPORATE UPPER HOUSE, WILL CONTAIN 52 PROVINCIAL SENATORS, 30 UNIVERSITY SENATORS, AND 30 SYNDICAL REPRESENTATIVES. ADDITIONALLY, THE KING WILL NAME 60, AMONG WHICH WILL BE INTEGRATED THE PRESENT "GROUP OF 40."
COMMENT: THIS PARALLELS THE INFORMATION PASSED BY OFFICIAL SOURCES TO THE EMBASSY AND REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. THE PAPER ON PARLIAMENTARY REFORM WILL NOW BE TRANSMITTED TO THE GOVT, COMPLETING THE WORK OF THE MIXED COMMISSION. GIVEN THE SECRECY IN WHICH THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION WAS PERFORMED, THE PRESS WONDERS IF, IN ADDITION TO THE DRAFT LAWS ALREADY SUBMITTED TO THE "CORTES," THE REFORM OF THE LAW OF SUCCESSION AND THIS JUST-COMPLETED PAPER ON REFORM OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM, THE MIXED COMMISSION HAD ALSO WORKED ON THE VITAL SUBJECT OF LABOR UNION REFORM.

3. JOSE ANTONIO GIRON, EX-MINISTER OF LABOR AND LEADER OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION, SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE MIXED COMMISSION TO PRIME MINISTER ARIAS THE SAME DAY. CITING HIS ABSENCE FROM THE FOUR PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION, GIRON SAID THAT THE SAME "PERSONAL REASONS" WOULD PROHIBIT HIM FROM FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN THE MIXED COMMISSION AS WELL. HIS RESIGNATION IS BEING INTERPRETED UNIFORMLY AS A PUBLIC MOVE TO DISTANCE HIMSELF AND HIS VETERANS GROUP FROM THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION. APPARENTLY, THOUGH, GIRON DID NOT WISH TO SAY SO PUBLICLY.

4. ALSO APR 22, PRIOR TO THE MEETING OF THE MIXED COMMISSION, THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT HELD A MEETING CHAIRED BY NATIONAL MOVEMENT MINISTER ADOLFO SUAREZ. AMONG OTHER ITEMS, IT NOTED THE PETITION PRESENTED BY THE PROMINENT RIGHT-WING THEORETICIAN FERNANDEZ DE LA MORA AND SIGNED BY 55 CONSERVATIVE NATIONAL COUNCILLORS, CALLING FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, IN LINE WITH ARTICLE 23B OF THE ORGANIC LAW OF THE STATE, TO CONSIDER ALL DRAFT LAWS AFFECTING A FUNDAMENTAL LAW PRIOR TO THEIR SUBMISSION TO THE "CORTES."

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MADRID 03166 231654Z

5. COMMENT: BOTH THE RESIGNATION OF GIRON AND THE PETITION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCILLORS ARE SEEN AS SIGNS THAT THE "BUNKER" IS GIRDING ITSELF FOR LEGISLATIVE OPPOSITON TO THE GOVT'S REFORM PROGRAM.
STABLER

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